

Purpose:

Agenda:

9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Opening Session

**Commissioner John M. Bernal, Commissioner for the United States Section
International Boundary and Water Commission.**

9:45 a.m - 11:45 a.m. Panel I

(1) United States-Mexico Boundary and Water Treaties Applicable to the Rio Grande
Secretary Manuel R. Ybarra, IBWC U.S. Section

(2) Binational Symposium, A Discussion about the Reach of the Rio Grande from Fort Quitman to Amistad Reservoir

Ing. Rascon, IBWC Mexican Section

(3) U.S. Federal Agreements and the Rio Grande Inter-state Compact

Commissioner Eluid Martinez, Bureau of Reclamation

(4) Texas Regional Watershed Planning Initiatives

Craig Pederson, Executive Director of Texas Water Development Board

(5) Legal Framework for the Management of Water Use in Mexico

Ing. Sergio Moreno Mejia, Sub-Director of the National Commission of Water (CNA)

Open Comment Session (15 minutes)

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Coffee Break

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Begin Concurrent Sessions: Panel II and Panel III

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch

Key Note Speakers for lunch will be:

The Honorable Julia Carabias Lillo, Secretary for the Environment,
Natural Resources and Fishing Department

The Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary for the Department of the
Interior

2:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Finish Concurrent Sessions

Panel II - Hydrological Characteristics and Biological Resources of the Rio Grande from Fort Quitman through Amistad Reservoir

Mission Statement: Describe and discuss the river conditions and interactions with biological diversity, and factors that have changed the river and its associated environments over time from the Fort Quitman to Amistad river reach. In addition, the panelists will discuss information and data gaps in the science - from a biological, ecological and hydrological perspective - in order to identify research needs.

Panel Co-chairs: Charles Groat, Director USGS
Ignacio Castillo, CNA Director of Sanitation and Water Quality,
Topics 1-4
Javier De la Maza Elvira, SEMARNAP, National Institute for Ecology
(INE) Director of Coordination Unit for Protected Natural Areas,
Topics 5-8

Topics (15 minutes for each presentation):

(1) Historical Reconstruction of the Ecology of the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Channel and Floodplain in the Chihuahua Desert: Pre-1916

Chris Williams, World Wildlife Fund Director of Chihuahuan Desert Eco-regional Planning Initiative

(2) Hydrologic and Geomorphic History of the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo between Fort Quitman and Amistad Reservoir and Implications for River Restoration

John C. Schmidt, Professor from Utah State University and co-author of USGS circular Dams and Rivers: Primer on the Downstream Effects of Dams, 1996

(3) Water Quality Conditions of the Fort Quitman to Amistad Reservoir Reach of the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo-The United States Perspective on Water Quality Issues

Roger Miranda, Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission Surface Water Quality and Monitoring Group

(4) The Quality of Water along the reach of the Rio Grande Between Fort Quitman and Amistad Dam

Ing. Carlos Isreal Sánchez Vázquez, Comisión Nacional del Agua, Subgerente de Estudios de Calidad del Agua e Impacto Ambiental

(5) Hydrologic Characteristics and Biological Resources of the Rio Grande between Fort Quitman and Amistad Dam: A Description of the Actual Condition of the Riparian Habitat

Ing. Carlos Alberto Sifuentes Lugo, Ingeniero Forestal Area de Protección de Flora y Fauna Maderas del Carmen

(6) Biological Responses and Restoration Challenges Associated with the Altered Flow Patterns of the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo

Sue Watts, Professor from the University of Texas at El Paso

(7) Aquatic Wildlife and Water Availability in the Rio Grande Basin

Dr. Salvador Contreras-Balderas, Profesor Emérito, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León; Pdte. Bioconservación, A.C.; Board of Directors, Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Basin Coalition

(8) 20th Century Changes in Mammals and Mammalian Habitats along the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo From Fort Quitman to Amistad

David Schmidly, Professor of Biological Sciences and Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies, and Technology Transfer, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas

Open Comment Session (30 minutes)

Panel III - The Emerging Social and Economic Trends and Development

Mission Statement: This panel will portray, from the United States and Mexican perspectives, the historic, current, and potential future water use of the Rio Grande Basin and the emerging social, economic, and development trends in order to identify present values of the water resources.

Panel Co-chairs: Greg Cooke, EPA Region 6 Administrator
Jaime Tinoco, CNA Border Coordinator

Topics (15 minutes for each presentation):

(1) Rio Grande/Rio Bravo: River of Life

F. Gus Sánchez, Park Ranger Interpreter, National Park Service, Big Bend National Park

(2) History and Evolution of Water Use/Water Regulation Program

Ing. Roberto Cortez, Subgerente Regional De Administracion del Agua, Gerencia Regional Rio Bravo

(3) Operations of the Rio Grande Watermaster

Carlos Rubenstein, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

(4) Summary of the Presentation Present Water Uses From Fort Quitman to Lake Amistad

Ing. Juarn Emilio Cardenas, Sub Director Tecnico, Comision Nacional del Agua, Gerencia Regional Rio Bravo

(5) The Future of Water Use in Rio Grande Between Ft. Quitman and Amistad Reservoir: An American Environmentalist's Perspective

Steve Harris, Executive Director Rio Grande Restoration

(6) Summary of the Presentation, Trends of Water Uses Fort Quitman to Lake Amistad

Ing. Abelardo Amaya Enderle, Gerente Regional, Comision Nacional del Agua, Gerencia Regional Rio Bravo

(7) The River as a Natural Attraction for Tourism

David Alloway, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Big Bend State Ranch

(8) United at the River: Binational Cooperation for the Conservation of the Rio Grande

Dr. Ernesto C. Enkerlin-Hoeflich, Director of the *Pronatura del Noroeste, A.C.*

Open Comment Session (45 minutes)

3:45 p.m. - 4:00pm Coffee Break

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Panel IV

Panel IV - Future Opportunities

Mission Statement: Discuss opportunities for improving the river conditions within the existing and available water resources.

Panel Co-chairs:

The Honorable Julia Carabias Lillo, Secretary for the Environment,
Natural Resources and Fishing Department
The Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary for the Department of the
Interior

Topics: Open discussion between panelists, led by co-chairs

5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Press Conference